

First Presbyterian Church

April 21, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.



Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

April 21, 2024 • *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

**Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

Prelude

Welcome

Introit

(hymn 476)

Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness; make us whole.

***Call to Worship**

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

We are known by our shepherd, and we belong to him.

Let us worship God with ears attuned to our shepherd's voice.

Let us come into God's presence with hearts ready to be filled.

***Hymn 38**

To Bless the Earth
(first verse, choir)

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(moment for silent confession)

God of grace and goodness, we confess that we talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Forgive us, we pray. Fill our cups once more to overflowing with your mercy, so that we may, in turn, honor you through lives of obedience and service; in the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***The Peace of Christ**

God has received us, pardoned us, and loved us.

Let us therefore forgive one another in love.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Sung Response** *(hymn 250)*

In our end is our beginning; in our time infinity;

In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory,

Unrevealed until its season something God alone can see.

Anthem

How Can I Keep from Singing?

arr. Nelson

First Scripture Reading

John 10:11-18

Second Scripture Reading

Psalm 23
(hymn 803)

Sermon

Imagine

Sharon Youngs

Musical Reflection

***Affirmation of Faith** (from the Confession of Belhar)

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. Amen.

Call to Prayer (hymn 851; sing twice)

Come bring your burdens to God; come, bring your burdens to God; come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.

Prayers of the People with The Lord's Prayer (ecumenical)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Moment for Mission

***Hymn**

O God, Within the Psalms

C.W. Gillette

***O God, within the Psalms are pictures of your love:
There, young trees grow as waters flow and mountains rise above.
The creatures with their young, the birds that fill the air,
The gentle rain, the harvest grain proclaim your love and care.***

***And in the Psalms we see a Shepherd's love expressed.
Lord, you provide and lead and guide, and we— your sheep—are blessed.
You give us food to eat, and water— safe and clear.
Yes, we're stored, O Shepherd Lord, by all you give us here.***

***Yet as we look ahead, we fear the things we see.
As earth cries out through storm and drought, we wonder what will be.
We take more than our share; we plunder and destroy.
God, we confess we've made a mess of things that bring you joy.***

***We see within the Psalms a world where nature sings.
Help us to share, and work, and care for all your growing things.
O Shepherd, we've been blessed; may we be blessings too.
This is our prayer: May we take care of this good earth with you.***

*Charge and Blessing

*Sung Response

Irish Blessing

(inside back cover of hymnal)

Postlude



*The flowers today are given by Ann Frome to the glory of God
and in memory of Edward Lee Frome.*



Announcements

—Thank you to Herb Krause for serving as our liturgist this morning.

—Do you have a pair of eclipse glasses to share? Lee Robinson is collecting them for children in Mexico to use.

—Today we receive a special offering for Living Waters for the World, a faith-based nonprofit that trains and supports volunteer mission teams to form partnerships with communities and install sustainable water purification systems in the U.S. and abroad. Please make checks payable to FPCOR and put “LWW” on the memo line or scan the QR code below to give online. See page 5 of the April edition of *The Banner* for more information about this important work.

—Next Sunday, Apr. 28, our Science & Faith Lecture series features Joseph Witt, associate professor of religious studies at the University of Tennessee, who will address “Environmental Disasters and Religious Responses: Case Studies from Appalachia and the U.S. Gulf Coast.” Co-sponsored by FPCOR and First United Methodist Church (FUMC) of Oak Ridge, the event will begin at 1:30 p.m. at FUMC.

—On Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 p.m., Sharon begins a new four-session book study on Desmond Tutu’s *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World*. The book is available on Amazon. If you’d like for Madison to order you a copy, just let her know.

First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

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❖ fpcor.org ❖ on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, TN

❖ On Instagram [@firstpresbyterianchurchor](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresbyterianchurchor) ❖

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist Madison Green, Office Manager

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